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BODY

SUBJECT: LATIN AMERICA BRIEF [REDACTED] FOR 11 OCTOBER 1991.

ITEM

1. HAITI: MILITARY CONCERNS ABOUT UNREST [REDACTED]

ARMED FORCES COMMANDER CEDRAS FEARS THAT THE COUNTRY IS HEADING TOWARD CIVIL WAR, INTERIM PRESIDENT NERETTE AND THE LEGISLATURE ARE TAKING STEPS TO SET UP THE PROVISIONAL GOVERNMENT. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] THE ARMY HAS DISINTEGRATED AND PREDICTED GROWING CONFRONTATIONS BETWEEN ARISTIDE'S LOWER-CLASS SUPPORTERS AND UNDISCIPLINED TROOPS. THE ATTACHE HAS RECEIVED REPORTS OF ROBBERIES, LOOTING, AND RAPE COMMITTED BY SOLDIERS IN THE SLUMS OF PORT-AU-PRINCE, WHILE SLUM RESIDENTS ANGRY AT RISING FOOD PRICES ARE THREATENING TO "BURN THE RICH." [REDACTED]

COMMENT: THE MILITARY'S ANTICIPATION OF A SOCIAL EXPLOSION WILL FUEL ITS DETERMINATION TO MOVE RUTHLESSLY AGAINST DISSIDENTS, AND MORE HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS ARE LIKELY. ALTHOUGH SOLDIERS WILL BE UNABLE TO RESIST AN EXTERNAL MILITARY THREAT, THEY COULD DISSOLVE INTO SMALL GUERRILLA BANDS. HAITIANS HURT BY AN ECONOMIC EMBARGO COULD ALSO VENT THEIR FRUSTRATIONS ON FOREIGNERS. [REDACTED]

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